

Dear Neighbor,

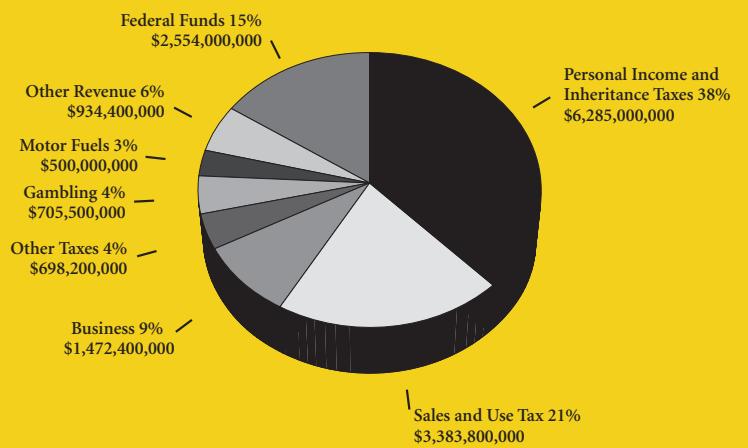
I am often asked questions on where the state derives its revenue and how it is spent. The chart below provides an overview of revenue and spending. I hope you find it informative.

Clark

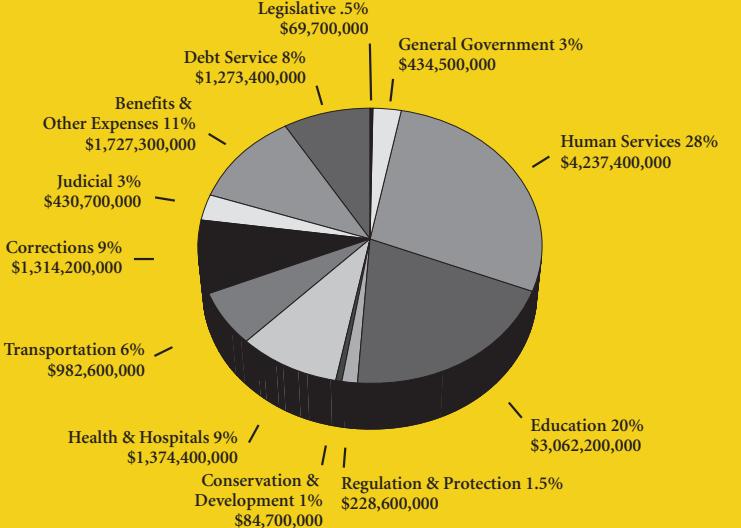
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

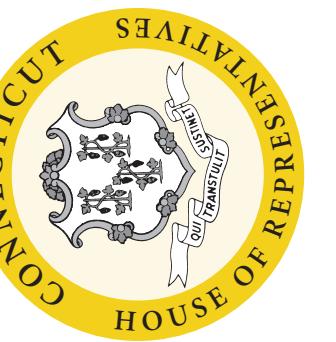


WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.

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State Representative

CLARK CHAPIN

Proudly Serving the 67th District

New Milford ★ Connecticut



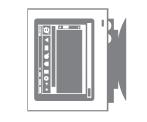
Representative Clark Chapin
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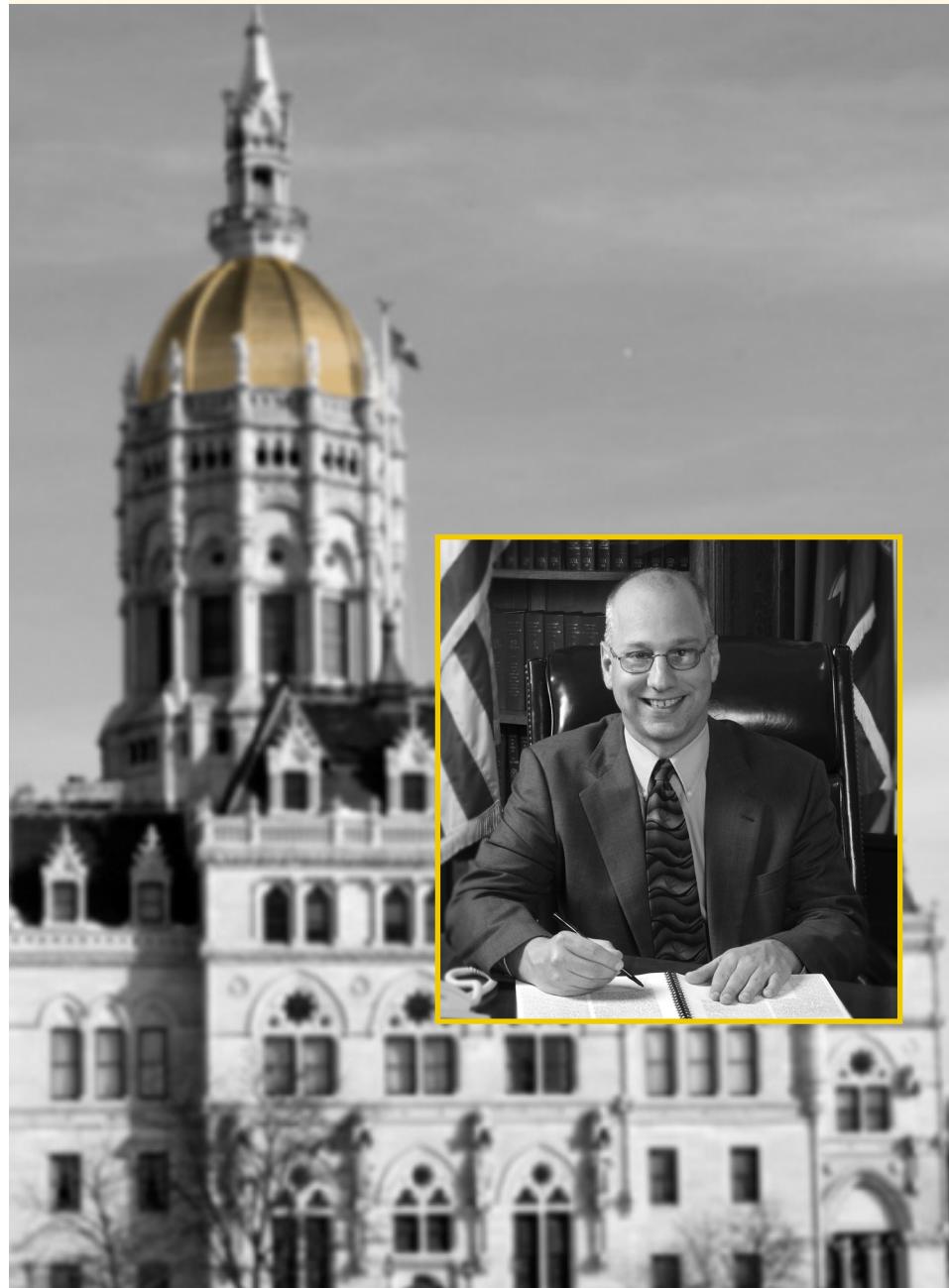
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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.housegop.ct.gov

2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
CLARK CHAPIN
Proudly Serving the 67th District
New Milford ★ Connecticut



Representative Chapin reviews language of a bill being debated on the floor of the House of Representatives.

SENIORS

Homecare Oversight

Public Act 06-187 will help protect the interests of senior citizens by requiring companies providing homemaker or companion services to obtain a certificate of registration from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). It also gives DCP authority to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue the registration or take other disciplinary measures in response to violations of the bill.

Under the bill, beginning October 2006, these companies must require new employees to undergo comprehensive background checks and take specified factors into account when making employment decisions based on the checks. Homecare agencies must also provide their clients with written individualized contracts or service plans that identify the services' scope, type, frequency, and duration. In addition, agencies that enter into a contract with a client's family must detail exact compensation.

Property Tax Freeze

Public Act 06-176 allows municipalities to freeze the property taxes on homes owned by certain elderly people. To be eligible, the homeowner or his spouse must be age 70 or older and have lived in the state at least one year. The freeze continues for a surviving spouse who is at least age 62 when the homeowner dies. Homeowners must meet the same income limits as apply to the existing state-reimbursed "circuit breaker" program, which currently gives qualified homeowners age 65 or over a tax credit against the property taxes on their homes.

Living Wills

Public Act 06-195 updates state law regarding the use of living wills. The legislation addresses issues that allow for more effective utilization of living wills, including authorizing a person's chosen health care representative to make health care decisions if they are incapable of personally expressing those wishes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Prohibiting Underage Drinking On Private Property

Public Act 06-112 is designed to address a loophole in state law that has allowed underage drinking on private property. Under current law, the penalty for illegal possession in public places is a fine of \$200 to \$500. The bill also makes it illegal for a minor to possess alcohol anywhere, rather than only in public places and makes a first offense an infraction. This public act makes subsequent offenses subject to up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both.

Prohibiting Alcohol Inhalation Devices

Public Act 06-95 bans alcohol vaporization devices, which are machines that process products containing alcoholic liquor with oxygen or another gas to produce a vaporized product for human inhalation. The devices facilitate a very dangerous method of alcohol consumption that has led to overdoses and even deaths. The new law subjects violators who sell, purchase or possess the devices to imprisonment for up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Reducing Hospital Infections

Public Act 06-142 will address infections acquired in hospitals, which can lead to very serious medical problems. The legislation creates a committee to develop a mandatory reporting system for all healthcare associated infections. In addition, the report must be posted on the Department of Public Health website and be available to the public. Because this legislation establishes a detailed reporting system, it marks an excellent step toward reducing such infections.

Improving Hospital Admission Process

In many cases, a patient's primary care physician has no involvement in their hospitalization process. This system can be detrimental to the comfort level of the patient but can also prevent their primary doctor from offering important personal medical history and information at a crucial time. Public Act 06-195 requires the Quality of Care Advisory Commission to make recommendations on best practices concerning communications between patients' primary care providers and other providers involved in patient care. The commission must make its recommendations to the Department of Public Health by January 1, 2008.



TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

\$2.3 Billion Package

Public Act 06-136 will provide additional funds for improvements to highways and mass transit in all corners of the state, allocating \$2.3 billion over a 10-year period. Projects to be funded in Western Connecticut include the completion of the engineering and design phase of widening Interstate 84 between Waterbury and Danbury. It also includes funding to begin the electrification of the Danbury rail line as well as funding to upgrade rail cars on this line.

Other projects that will be funded include: the restoration of commuter rail service between New Haven and Springfield, MA; the renovation of rail cars for use on Shore Line East, New Haven-Springfield Line and Branch Lines and dredging of the state's commercial ports. It is important to note the bill does not include previous proposals for increasing the state gasoline tax. The package will be funded through revenue bonds.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Protection Against Identity Theft

Public Act 06-60 outlaws small scanners and reencoders that can be used to create fake credit cards. This is an ever increasing problem throughout the country and the bill is a positive step towards protecting our residents. Penalties for violating the new law include up to 10 years imprisonment, fines of up to \$10,000 or both.

SPENDING AND TAXES

2006-2007 State Budget

There were several good points in the 2006-2007 budget package that was approved this year. These include:

- Providing a welcome tax break. The maximum property tax credit on the state income, which was scheduled to rise from \$350 to \$400, will instead be raised to to \$500.
- Allocating \$190 million to the Rainy Day Fund. This fund, established in the wake of enacting the state income tax in the early 1990s, played a vital role in cushioning the impact on taxpayers when the state hit difficult economic times a decade later.
- To help promote business development, it repeals the 15 percent corporation tax credit surcharge in 2007 and offer tax credits for companies that hire displaced workers and create at least 50 new, full-time jobs.

Home Weatherization Incentives

Public Act 06-187 exempts residential weatherization and energy efficiency products and energy efficient heating equipment from the sales tax for 13 months, from June 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. The exemption applies to insulation; programmable thermostats; water heater blankets; window film; window and door weather strips; caulking; water heaters, gas furnaces, and windows that meet federal Energy Star standards; and oil furnaces that are at least 85% efficient.

ENVIRONMENT

Open Space Grant For New Milford

Late last year, the New Milford legislative delegation helped secure a \$450,000 Open Space Grant for the town. The funding was used to acquire a 170-acre parcel of land known as Reservoir #4. This property contains a 25-acre reservoir with water that feeds into Great Brook, a native trout-breeding stream.

New Milford's application for grant funds for the reservoir property was a very strong one. In fact, the town received the maximum amount of funding available under this program. This is an important project that will preserve this beautiful piece of property in our community for future generations.



Rep. Chapin discusses legislation with Rep. Mary Ann Carson, R-New Fairfield, on the Floor of the House during the 2006 Legislative Session.